

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 27 and 29-31 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A saw blade comprising a relatively soft carrier supporting a plurality of relatively hard teeth, wherein the teeth are of differing characteristics.
2. (Original) A blade according to claim 1, wherein the teeth differ in shape.
3. (Currently Amended) A blade according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the teeth differ in composition.
4. (Currently Amended) A blade according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the pitch of the teeth along the carrier is constant.
5. (Currently Amended) A blade according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the pitch of the teeth varies along the carrier.
6. (Currently Amended) A blade according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the blade has a linear edge.
7. (Currently Amended) A blade according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the blade has a curved edge.
8. (Original) A blade according to claim 7, the blade edge being circular.
9. (Original) A method of making a saw blade, the method comprising fabricating a plurality of relatively hard teeth having differing characteristics, mounting the teeth at desired spaced mounting positions on a carrier of a relatively soft material and securing the teeth in their positions.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the teeth differ in shape.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein the teeth differ in composition.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, ~~10 or 11~~, wherein the mounting of the teeth in the carrier causes deformation and displacement of the material of the carrier.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein deformation and displacement is achieved by forcing the teeth into apertures in the carrier.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the teeth have teeth roots with peripheries which form cutting edges to displace the material of the carrier as the inserts are forced into position.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 9 to 14~~ claim 9, wherein the pitch of the teeth along the carrier is constant.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 9 to 14~~ claim 9, wherein the pitch of the teeth varies along the carrier.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 9 to 16~~ claim 9, wherein the blade has a linear edge.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 9 to 16~~ claim 9, wherein the blade has a curved edge.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the blade edge is circular.

20. (Original) A plurality of hard teeth for attaching to a relatively soft common carrier of a saw blade, the teeth being of differing characteristics so that the resulting saw blade has teeth with different characteristics.

21. (Original) A plurality of teeth according to claim 20, wherein the teeth differ in shape.

22. (Currently Amended) A plurality of teeth according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~, wherein the teeth differ in composition.

23. (Original) A tooth for a saw blade, the tooth having a root for attachment to a carrier of the blade and a head forming a cutting portion of the tooth when the latter is advanced in the cutting direction, the root and head being separated by a transition region which, when the tooth is viewed in side view transverse to the cutting direction, is in the shape of a neck as a consequence of having a width less than the maximum width of the root and less than the maximum width of the head.

24. (Original) A tooth according to claim 23, wherein the root has a periphery which is curvilinear in side view, the curvilinear edge being sufficiently sharp to enable the insert to be forced into the carrier from one side thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) A tooth according to claim 23 ~~or 24~~, wherein the tooth is shaped to be forced into a pre-formed pilot slot or hole in the carrier with attendant displacement and deformation of the material of the carrier.

26. (Currently Amended) A saw blade comprising a carrier supporting a plurality of teeth each in accordance with ~~any of claims 23 to 25~~ claim 23.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method of making a saw blade, in which relatively hard teeth in accordance with ~~any of claims 23 to 25~~ claim 23 are mounted on a relatively soft carrier.

29-31. (Canceled)